

Connecticut just moved 250,000 water customers from private to public. Your capital plan has to keep up.

A \$2.4 billion ownership change at Aquarion, a \$2-billion-plus wastewater program in Hartford, WICA surcharges that reset every six months, and lead and PFAS mandates arriving with federal dollars attached. For a utility CFO or capital lead, every one of those forces reshuffles the projects on your list. Invizion helps Connecticut utilities re-sequence a capital portfolio in a click — and defend every decision.

\$2.4B¹ Paid by the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority to buy Aquarion Water in July 2026, moving ~250,000 Connecticut customers from investor-owned to public.	\$2B+² Committed to the MDC's Clean Water Project in greater Hartford to cut combined sewer overflows under a federal consent decree.	~8,000³ Estimated lead service lines statewide — concentrated in Bridgeport, Waterbury, New London and Greenwich (~1,500 alone).	\$235.5M⁴ Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law water dollars flowing to Connecticut since 2022.
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THE CONNECTICUT LANDSCAPE

Four forces are moving your project list at once

None of these is theoretical, and none of them waits for your next budget cycle. Together they mean the capital plan you approved last year may already be the wrong plan.

OWNERSHIP & CONSOLIDATION

The biggest ownership change in a generation

On July 1, 2026, the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority closed a \$2.4 billion purchase of Aquarion Water from Eversource — ~\$1.6 billion for the utility plus roughly \$800 million in assumed debt — moving nearly 250,000 customers across 59 towns from investor-owned to public ownership¹

The deal only closed after PURA blocked it in November 2025, a court ordered reconsideration, and PURA reversed course in March 2026.¹ Officials pledged no rate increase for six months, then projected annual increases of 6.5% to 8.35% over the following decade — a capital and rate trajectory that is now being rebuilt from scratch.¹

AGING PIPE & RENEWAL

A century of pipe, replaced one percent a year

Connecticut Water alone maintains roughly 1,850 miles of main and targets replacing about 1% of it annually. It passed the milestone of one million feet — about 190 miles, a little over 10% of its network — renewed since 2008, at roughly \$350 per foot⁵

At a one-percent pace, full renewal is a hundred-year cycle. Every foot of that program competes for the same dollars as compliance and growth — and the sequencing between them is exactly what boards and regulators scrutinize.

WASTEWATER & CSOS

Combined sewers under a federal consent decree

The Metropolitan District (MDC), which serves eight member towns and roughly 500,000 residents around Hartford, is spending more than \$2 billion on its Clean Water Project to stop combined sewer overflows into local waterways under a federal consent decree and a DEEP consent order^{6,2}

The centerpiece South Hartford Conveyance and Storage Tunnel — four miles of 18-foot bore, 200-plus feet down — is a single line item larger than many utilities' entire capital plan. Programs at that scale leave no room for sequencing error²

COMPLIANCE — LEAD & PFAS

Two funded mandates, on the same clock

Connecticut DPH estimates roughly 8,000 lead service lines statewide, concentrated in environmental-justice communities such as Bridgeport, Waterbury, Middletown, New London and Greenwich — which alone may hold about 1,500³ EPA sent Connecticut \$27.4 million dedicated to finding and replacing them in 2026.⁷

PFAS is the second front: the state received \$9.5 million to address PFAS in drinking water, and monitoring and treatment obligations are still expanding.⁸ New obligations don't replace the renewal backlog — they stack on top of it, and something on the list has to move.

WHO RUNS CONNECTICUT'S WATER

A public-heavy system — regional authorities and one big investor-owned holdout

Connecticut is unusual: its largest water systems are quasi-public authorities and municipal corporations, and the 2026 Aquarion sale pushed the balance further toward public ownership. The main investor-owned provider left, Connecticut Water, is rate-regulated by PURA. The pressures are shared; the accountability path differs.

Public authorities & municipal systems

Governed by boards & representative bodies · not rate-regulated by PURA

South Central CT Regional Water Authority (RWA) ~430,000 served · 15-town New Haven regions

Aquarion Water Authority ~250,000 customers · 59 towns · public since July 2026

The Metropolitan District (MDC) 8 member towns · ~500,000 residents · Hartford

Norwich Public Utilities, New Britain, Bristol Municipal water & sewer systems

Numerous small community systems Where funding gaps hit hardest

The RWA now operates Aquarion through the newly created Aquarion Water Authority, sharing executive leadership and board

Investor-owned utilities

Rates & capital recovery regulated by PURA

Connecticut Water Company 107,000+ customers · 60 towns · H2O America (formerly SJW Group)

Torrington Water Company Investor-owned Litchfield County system

Aquarion (until mid-2026) Formerly Eversource-owned; among the 7 largest U.S. IOUs

Small & specialty IOUs Hazardville, Avon, and other PURA-regulated systems

Virtually all of Connecticut Water's main-replacement work since 2008 has been recovered through WICA rather than full rate cases

Every capital dollar has to be defensible

Whether you answer to PURA, a regional authority board, or a municipal council, the question is the same: why this project, why now, why at this cost? Connecticut's oversight bodies are asking it harder than ever.

Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) sets rates and capital recovery for investor-owned utilities. Its WICA surcharge lets water companies recover eligible main replacement between rate cases, capped at 10% cumulatively and 5% in any single year, with a separate RAM revenue true-up¹²

The Aquarion sale showed PURA's teeth. PURA rejected the \$2.4B transaction in November 2025 before approving it under court order in 2026 — a reminder that even a public-benefit deal is not a formality.¹³

Rate cases are contested. In Connecticut Water's last general case, PURA cut roughly \$15.1M from the request — approving about a 5.06% increase against a ~20% ask and a 9% ROE versus 10.4% requested.¹⁴

Connecticut DPH Drinking Water Section holds Safe Drinking Water Act primacy — lead service line inventories, PFAS monitoring, and the compliance capital that follows.¹⁵

CT DEEP administers the state Clean Water Fund and enforces the CSO consent orders that drive Hartford-area wastewater capital.¹⁶

The money is moving — can your plan absorb it?

Connecticut utilities have more capital funding available than they've had in a generation. The constraint is no longer only dollars — it's readiness: which projects are shovel-ready, which qualify, and how the timing lines up with everything else on the list.

~\$72.1M in FFY2025 federal DWSRF capitalization for Connecticut — \$10.9M base plus IJA supplementals of \$24.9M general, \$28.65M for lead service lines, and \$7.64M for emerging contaminants. The comprehensive project list runs 184 projects seeking ~\$1.1B.¹⁷

\$235.5M in total BIL water funding has flowed to Connecticut since 2022, including nearly \$61.4M announced for FY2024, roughly half as grants or forgivable principal.¹⁸

\$73.5M in DWSRF funding was announced for Connecticut in 2023 under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.¹⁸

\$27.4M for lead lines (2026) and \$9.5M for PFAS — dedicated federal awards on top of the base SRF, aimed at inventory, replacement and treatment.⁷⁸

State Clean Water Fund — DEEP's low-interest loan and grant program for wastewater and CSO projects, the backbone of financing for the MDC-scale programs.¹⁶

CONNECTICUT WATER, IN BRIEF

Questions Connecticut utility leaders are asking

Short, sourced answers — the same facts we'll dig into on a call, in the context of your system.

Who owns Aquarion Water now?

As of July 1, 2026, the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority owns Aquarion, having closed a \$2.4 billion purchase from Eversource. Aquarion's ~250,000 Connecticut customers across 59 towns are now served through a new public entity, the Aquarion Water Authority. The deal was blocked by PURA in November 2025 and approved only after a court ordered reconsideration¹¹

Who sets water rates in Connecticut?

PURA regulates rates and capital recovery for investor-owned utilities such as Connecticut Water. Public systems — the RWA, the MDC, and municipal utilities — set rates through their own boards and representative bodies rather than PURA. Either way, capital spending has to be justified to a governing body and, increasingly, to ratepayers.¹²

What is WICA and why does it matter for capital planning?

The Water Infrastructure and Conservation Adjustment lets PURA-regulated water companies recover eligible main-replacement costs through a surcharge between full rate cases, capped at 10% cumulatively and 5% in a single year. It has funded virtually all of Connecticut Water's main replacement since 2008 — but because it resets semi-annually and only covers qualifying projects, it puts a premium on sequencing the right work in the right order.¹³

How many lead service lines does Connecticut have?

Connecticut DPH estimates roughly 8,000 lead service lines statewide, though the exact count is still being refined through inventories. They are concentrated in lower-income communities such as Bridgeport, Waterbury, Middletown and New London, with Greenwich alone suspected to hold about 1,500. EPA sent \$27.4 million in 2026 dedicated to finding and replacing them.¹⁷

How much federal water funding is available in Connecticut?

Connecticut has received about \$235.5 million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law water funding since 2022, on top of its base SRF. For FFY2025 the state's DWSRF capitalization totaled roughly \$72.1 million — including \$28.65 million for lead lines and \$7.64 million for emerging contaminants — and the drinking water project list runs about \$1.1 billion in requested assistance. Much of the supplemental money is available as grants or forgivable principal.¹⁷

How does Invizion help Connecticut water utilities plan capital?

Invizion is scenario-based capital portfolio optimization for water utilities. It lets you model how an ownership change, a funding award, a WICA reset, or a compliance deadline reshuffles your whole project list, re-sequence the portfolio automatically, and keep a defensible record of every decision for PURA, your board, or ratepayers. The best next step is a short first meeting to look at it against your own program.

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ABOUT INVIZION

Capital program optimization for utilities

Invizion is a purpose-built capital lifecycle management platform for water and wastewater utilities. It integrates budgeting, CIP, scenario analysis, and funding-source tracking in one system — so utilities can re-sequence a capital portfolio in a click and demonstrate audit-ready, defensible decisions to regulators, boards, and rating agencies.

See what a defensible Connecticut capital plan looks like — book a 20-minute first meeting.

Book your first meeting →